



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/784,207	02/24/2004	Dalero Winston Berkeley	839-1508	9237

30024 7590 12/10/2004
NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C./G.E.
1100 N. GLEBE RD.
SUITE 800
ARLINGTON, VA 22201

EXAMINER

CASAREGOLA, LOUIS J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3746

DATE MAILED: 12/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/784,207

Applicant(s)

BERKELEY ET AL.

Examiner

Louis J. Casaregola

Art Unit

3746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 21-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Reasons For Allowance</u> . |

Objections To Claims

Claims 1-20 are objected to under 37 CFR § 1.75(a) for the following reasons:

In claim 1 and related dependent claims 2-10, the reference to a "compressor" (claim 1, line 14) is ambiguous since the claims include two different compressors, "a compressor of the gas turbine" (claim 1, line 4), and "a pilot air compressor" (claim 1, line 11). It appears that the compressor referred to in line 14 is in fact the pilot air compressor and it should be properly identified as such.

Claim 11 and related dependent claims 12-20 include the same problem as claims 1-10. The "compressor" referred to in claim 11, lines 9, 11, and 13 is ambiguous and should be properly identified as the pilot air compressor.

In claim 18, "said second pipe outlet" lacks antecedent basis. The corresponding element in the parent claim is merely recited as an "outlet" (claim 11, line 16), and the language of claim 18 should be amended to be consistent with that of the parent claim.

Allowable Subject Matter


Claims 21-24 are allowed, and claims 1-20 will be allowed if amended to overcome the objections set forth above.

Reasons For Allowance

The invention in this case is a pilot air supply system for a gas turbine engine. This system comprises a pilot air or booster compressor along with a bypass passage. Such systems are known in the art but none of the references of record show or fairly suggest such a system including throttle valves in both a main pilot air passage and the bypass passage.

The patents to Nishijima and Yamanaka et al '826 are typical of the prior art. In Figure 2 of Nishijima for example; booster compressor 11 cooperates with bypass line 30_A including throttle valve 13, but main pilot air line 15 includes no corresponding throttle valve. On the other hand, Figure 5 of Yamanaka shows a system in which main pilot air line 11 for booster compressor 10 includes throttle valve 20, but bypass passage 15 includes no further throttle valve. A system including the claimed combination of two throttle valves along with the other recited features is neither taught nor suggested by the any of the references of record, and the claimed invention is therefore considered patentable over the prior art.

L. J. Casaregola
571-272-4826 (M-F; 7:30-4:00)
703-872-9306 FAX
December 8, 2004


LOUIS J. CASAREGOLA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Application/Control Number: 10/784,207

Page 4

Art Unit: 3746

If repeated attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the art unit supervisor, Cheryl Tyler, can be reached at 571-272-4834.

Information regarding the status of this application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR, and status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).